

Serial No.: 10/021,740
Conf. No.: 1110

- 2 -

Art Unit: 1745

THE CLAIMS

Applicant has submitted a new complete claim set showing marked up claims with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing.

Please amend pending claim 65 as noted below.

Please cancel claims 58-64, 74, 75, 89, and 99-128, without prejudice.

Please add new claims 129-160 as noted below.

1-64. (Cancelled)

65. (Currently amended) An article comprising:

a first electrode having a base and a first surface for positioning proximate to an opposing electrode, the first surface being reticulated so as to define a plurality of protrusions and intervening indentations providing a surface area at least 1.5 times the theoretical surface area of a smooth non-reticulating surface, wherein the protrusions have a length l and a cross-sectional thickness a and wherein the cross-sectional thickness a varies along the length l of the protrusion such that the cross-sectional thickness, when averaged along the length of the protrusion, is less than about 100 microns.

66. (Previously presented) The article of claim 65, wherein the protrusions are positioned periodically, aperiodically, or randomly on the first reticulating surface.

67. (Previously presented) The article of claim 65, wherein the first surface has a surface area that is at least 2 times the theoretical area of a smooth, non-reticulated configuration.

68. (Previously presented) The article of claim 65, wherein the first surface has a surface area that is at least 2.5 times the theoretical area of a smooth, non-reticulating configuration.

69. (Previously presented) The article of claim 65, wherein the first surface has a surface area that is at least 3 times the theoretical area of a smooth, non-reticulating configuration.

739735.1

Serial No.: 10/021,740
Conf. No.: 1110

- 3 -

Art Unit: 1745

70. (Previously presented) The article of claim 65, wherein the first surface has a surface area that is at least 4 times the theoretical area of a smooth, non-reticulating configuration.

71. (Previously presented) The article of claim 65, wherein the first surface has a surface area that is at least 5 times the theoretical area of a smooth, non-reticulating configuration.

72. (Previously presented) The article of claim 65, wherein the cross-sectional width a of the protrusion increases at cross-sections approaching the base of the first electrode.

73. (Previously presented) The article of claim 65, wherein a cross-sectional area of the protrusion at a first position near to the base of the first electrode is greater than a cross-sectional area of the protrusion at a second position that is farther from the base.

74-75. (Cancelled)

76. (Previously presented) The article of claim 65, wherein the opposing electrode has a smooth, non-reticulating surface.

77. (Previously presented) The article of claim 65, wherein the opposing electrode has a base and a second surface, reticulated so as to define a plurality of protrusions and intervening indentations providing a surface area at least 1.5 times the theoretical surface area of a smooth non-reticulating surface, wherein the protrusions have a length m and a cross-sectional thickness b .

78. (Previously presented) The article of claim 65, wherein the opposing electrode has a base and a second surface, reticulated so as to define a plurality of protrusions and intervening indentations providing a surface area at least 1.5 times the theoretical surface area of a smooth non-reticulating surface, wherein the protrusions have a length m and a cross-sectional thickness b and wherein the cross-sectional thickness b varies along the length m of the protrusion.

739735.1

Serial No.: 10/021,740
Conf. No.: 1110

- 4 -

Art Unit: 1745

79. (Previously presented) The article of claim 78, wherein the second surface has a surface area at least 2 times the theoretical surface area of a smooth non-reticulating surface.
80. (Previously presented) The article of claim 78, wherein the second surface has a surface area at least 2.5 times the theoretical surface area of a smooth non-reticulating surface.
81. (Previously presented) The article of claim 78, wherein the second surface has a surface area at least 3 times the theoretical surface area of a smooth non-reticulating surface.
82. (Previously presented) The article of claim 78, wherein the second surface has a surface area at least 3.5 times the theoretical surface area of a smooth non-reticulating surface.
83. (Previously presented) The article of claim 78, wherein the second surface has a surface area at least 4 times the theoretical surface area of a smooth non-reticulating surface.
84. (Previously presented) The article of claim 78, wherein the second surface has a surface area at least 5 times the theoretical surface area of a smooth non-reticulating surface.
85. (Previously presented) The article of claim 78, wherein the protrusions of the second reticulating surface are positioned periodically, aperiodically or randomly.
86. (Previously presented) The article of claim 78, wherein the cross-sectional width b of the protrusion increases at cross-sections approaching the base of the opposing electrode.
87. (Previously presented) The article of claim 78, wherein a cross-sectional area of the protrusion at a first position near to the base of the first electrode is greater than a cross-sectional area of the protrusion at a second position that is farther from the base.

739735.1

Serial No.: 10/021,740
Conf. No.: 1110

- 5 -

Art Unit: 1745

88. (Previously presented) The article of claim 78, wherein the cross-sectional area of the protrusions of the second reticulating surface increases at cross-sections approaching the base of the opposing electrode.

89. (Cancelled)

90. (Previously presented) The article of claim 78, wherein the first and second reticulating surfaces are interpenetrating.

91. (Previously presented) The article of claim 78, wherein the second reticulating surface of the opposing electrode is complementary to the first reticulating surface of the first electrode.

92. (Previously presented) The article of claim 90 or 91, wherein the average distance between complementary reticulating surfaces is less than 100 microns.

93. (Previously presented) The article of claim 90 or 91, wherein the average distance between complementary reticulating surfaces is less than 50 microns.

94. (Previously presented) The article of claim 90 or 91 wherein the average distance between complementary reticulating surfaces is less than 25 microns.

95. (Previously presented) The article of claim 90 or 91, wherein the average distance between complementary reticulating surfaces is less than 10 microns.

96. (Previously presented) The article of claim 78, further comprising an electrolyte positioned between the complementary first and second reticulating surfaces.

97. (Previously presented) The article of claim 65, wherein the first electrode is porous.

98. (Previously presented) The article of claim 97, wherein the opposing electrode is porous.

739735.1

Serial No.: 10/021,740
Conf. No.: 1110

- 6 -

Art Unit: 1745

99-128. (Cancelled)

129. (New) An article comprising:

a first electrode having a base and a first surface for positioning proximate to an opposing electrode, the first surface being reticulated so as to define a plurality of protrusions and intervening indentations providing a surface area at least 1.5 times the theoretical surface area of a smooth non-reticulating surface, wherein the protrusions have a length l and a cross-sectional thickness a and are positioned aperiodically on the first reticulating surface, and wherein the cross-sectional thickness a varies along the length l of the protrusion.

130. (New) The article of claim 129, wherein the first surface has a surface area that is at least 2 times the theoretical area of a smooth, non-reticulated configuration.

131. (New) The article of claim 129, wherein the cross-sectional width a of the protrusion increases at cross-sections approaching the base of the first electrode.

132. (New) The article of claim 129, wherein a cross-sectional area of the protrusion at a first position near to the base of the first electrode is greater than a cross-sectional area of the protrusion at a second position that is farther from the base.

133. (New) The article of claim 129, wherein the opposing electrode has a base and a second surface, reticulated so as to define a plurality of protrusions and intervening indentations providing a surface area at least 1.5 times the theoretical surface area of a smooth non-reticulating surface, wherein the protrusions have a length m and a cross-sectional thickness b and wherein the cross-sectional thickness b varies along the length m of the protrusion.

134. (New) The article of claim 133, wherein the second surface has a surface area at least 2 times the theoretical surface area of a smooth non-reticulating surface.

739735.1

Serial No.: 10/021,740
Conf. No.: 1110

- 7 -

Art Unit: 1745

135. (New) The article of claim 133, wherein the cross-sectional width b of the protrusion increases at cross-sections approaching the base of the opposing electrode.

136. (New) The article of claim 133, wherein a cross-sectional area of the protrusion at a first position near to the base of the first electrode is greater than a cross-sectional area of the protrusion at a second position that is farther from the base.

137. (New) The article of claim 133, wherein the cross-sectional area of the protrusions of the second reticulating surface increases at cross-sections approaching the base of the opposing electrode.

138. (New) The article of claim 133, further comprising an electrolyte positioned between the complementary first and second reticulating surfaces.

139. (New) The article of claim 129, wherein the first electrode is porous.

140. (New) An article comprising:

a first electrode having a base and a first surface for positioning proximate to an opposing electrode, the opposing electrode having a smooth, non-reticulating surface, the first surface being reticulated so as to define a plurality of protrusions and intervening indentations providing a surface area at least 1.5 times the theoretical surface area of a smooth non-reticulating surface, wherein the protrusions have a length l and a cross-sectional thickness a and wherein the cross-sectional thickness a varies along the length l of the protrusion.

141. (New) The article of claim 140, wherein the first surface has a surface area that is at least 2 times the theoretical area of a smooth, non-reticulated configuration.

142. (New) The article of claim 140, wherein the cross-sectional width a of the protrusion increases at cross-sections approaching the base of the first electrode.

739735.1

Serial No.: 10/021,740
Conf. No.: 1110

- 8 -

Art Unit: 1745

143. (New) The article of claim 140, wherein a cross-sectional area of the protrusion at a first position near to the base of the first electrode is greater than a cross-sectional area of the protrusion at a second position that is farther from the base.

144. (New) The article of claim 140, wherein the opposing electrode has a base and a second surface, reticulated so as to define a plurality of protrusions and intervening indentations providing a surface area at least 1.5 times the theoretical surface area of a smooth non-reticulating surface, wherein the protrusions have a length m and a cross-sectional thickness b and wherein the cross-sectional thickness b varies along the length m of the protrusion.

145. (New) The article of claim 144, wherein the second surface has a surface area at least 2 times the theoretical surface area of a smooth non-reticulating surface.

146. (New) The article of claim 144, wherein the cross-sectional width b of the protrusion increases at cross-sections approaching the base of the opposing electrode.

147. (New) The article of claim 144, wherein a cross-sectional area of the protrusion at a first position near to the base of the first electrode is greater than a cross-sectional area of the protrusion at a second position that is farther from the base.

148. (New) The article of claim 144, wherein the cross-sectional area of the protrusions of the second reticulating surface increases at cross-sections approaching the base of the opposing electrode.

149. (New) The article of claim 144, further comprising an electrolyte positioned between the complementary first and second reticulating surfaces.

150. (New) The article of claim 140, wherein the first electrode is porous.

739735.1

Serial No.: 10/021,740
Conf. No.: 1110

- 9 -

Art Unit: 1745

151. (New) An article comprising:

a first, porous electrode having a base and a first surface for positioning proximate to an opposing electrode, the first surface being reticulated so as to define a plurality of protrusions and intervening indentations providing a surface area at least 1.5 times the theoretical surface area of a smooth non-reticulating surface, wherein the protrusions have a length l and a cross-sectional thickness α and wherein the cross-sectional thickness α varies along the length l of the protrusion.

152. (New) The article of claim 151, wherein the first surface has a surface area that is at least 2 times the theoretical area of a smooth, non-reticulated configuration.

153. (New) The article of claim 151, wherein the cross-sectional width α of the protrusion increases at cross-sections approaching the base of the first electrode.

154. (New) The article of claim 151, wherein a cross-sectional area of the protrusion at a first position near to the base of the first electrode is greater than a cross-sectional area of the protrusion at a second position that is farther from the base.

155. (New) The article of claim 151, wherein the opposing electrode has a base and a second surface, reticulated so as to define a plurality of protrusions and intervening indentations providing a surface area at least 1.5 times the theoretical surface area of a smooth non-reticulating surface, wherein the protrusions have a length m and a cross-sectional thickness b and wherein the cross-sectional thickness b varies along the length m of the protrusion.

156. (New) The article of claim 155, wherein the second surface has a surface area at least 2 times the theoretical surface area of a smooth non-reticulating surface.

157. (New) The article of claim 155, wherein the cross-sectional width b of the protrusion increases at cross-sections approaching the base of the opposing electrode.

739735.1

Serial No.: 10/021,740
Conf. No.: 1110

- 10 -

Art Unit: 1745

158. (New) The article of claim 155, wherein a cross-sectional area of the protrusion at a first position near to the base of the first electrode is greater than a cross-sectional area of the protrusion at a second position that is farther from the base.

159. (New) The article of claim 155, wherein the cross-sectional area of the protrusions of the second reticulating surface increases at cross-sections approaching the base of the opposing electrode.

160. (New) The article of claim 155, further comprising an electrolyte positioned between the complementary first and second reticulating surfaces.